ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Inspector of Nuisances

TO THE

EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

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1920.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

EARSDON,

APRIL, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward you my Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1919.

POPULATION.

The population of the District, according to the census of 1911, was 10,570, and estimated to the middle of 1919, is 9,976.

Earsdon Township	3,666
Backworth Township	2,000
Holywell Township	3,160
Murton Township	1,150
	9,976

AREA.

The total area of the District is 4,711 acres.

BIRTHS.

296 births have been registered in the District, being an increase of 32 as compared with last year. These are apportioned as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Illegitimate. M.	Illegitimate. F.
Earsdon Township	68	59	127	5	4
Backworth Township	17	20	37	—	3
Holywell Township	38	42	80	1	6
Murton Township	28	24	52	3	1
	151	145	296	9	14

These births give a birth rate at 28·48 per 1000 per annum, calculated upon a population of 10,392 for birth rate, as supplied by Registrar General, an increase of 4·93 of that of last year.

DEATHS.

The total numbers of deaths, after adding residents who have died outside the District and deducting non-residents, is 133, which gives a death rate of 13·33, a decrease of 4·26 on that of last year. These deaths are apportioned as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon Township	27	26	53
Backworth Township	13	10	23
Holywell Township	16	26	42
Murton Township	7	8	15
	63	70	133

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT, 1919.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	63 ...	70
Measles	1 ...	1
Whooping cough	— ...	1
Diphtheria and croup	— ...	2
Influenza	6 ...	13
Pulmonary tuberculosis	5 ...	9
Tuberculous meningitis	2 ...	1
Other tuberculous diseases	— ...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	1 ...	3
Meningitis	— ...	1
Organic heart disease	2 ...	3
Bronchitis	6 ...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	6 ...	2
Other respiratory diseases	1 ...	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1 ...	1
Nephritis and Bright's disease	2 ...	3
Parturition, apart from pueperal fever	— ...	1
Congenital debility, etc.	6 ...	5
Violence, apart from suicide	5 ...	1
Suicide	— ...	2
Other defined diseases	18 ...	15
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1 ...	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age. Total ...	12 ...	16
Illegitimate	1 ...	1
Total Births	151 ...	145
Legitimate	142 ...	131
Illegitimate	9 ...	14

Population for Birth rate, 10,392.

Population for Death rate, 9,976.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There have been 14 deaths from Zymotic Disease.

Whooping cough	1	
Diphtheria	2	
Diarrhœa and enteritis ...	2	(under 2 years)
Measles	2	
	7	

which gives a death rate of ·71 per 1000 per annum, a decrease of ·68 from last year.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

There have been 14 deaths from Phthisis, which give a death rate of 1·40 per 1000 per annum, an increase of ·41 of last year. These are allocated to the following Townships :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon	2	4	6
Backworth	1	2	3
Holywell	1	3	4
Murton	1	—	1
	5	9	14

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

10 deaths have occurred from these diseases, which give a rate of 1·02 per 1000 per annum, a decrease of ·77 upon that of last year.

INFLUENZA.

19 deaths resulted from the epidemic of influenza, giving a death rate of 1·90 per 1000, a decrease of ·58 of last year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There have been 28 deaths of children under 1 year, a decrease of 2 from last year, which give a mortality rate of 94·59 per 1000 births, a decrease of 19·04 from last year.

	Number of Deaths.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon Township ...	7 ...	7 ...	14
Backworth Township ...	— ...	— ...	—
Holywell Township ...	2 ...	7 ...	9
Murton Township ...	3 ...	2 ...	5
	12	16	28

These deaths arose from the following causes:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pneumonia	1 ...	— ...	1
Debility from birth ...	4 ...	4 ...	8
Enteritis	1 ...	2 ...	3
Bronchitis	1 ...	2 ...	3
Whooping cough	— ...	1 ...	1
Premature birth	3 ...	4 ...	7
Tubercular disease ...	1 ...	1 ...	2
Convulsions	1 ...	1 ...	2
Dentation	1 ...	— ...	1
	13	15	28

This is an improvement upon last year's figures.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

325 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year amongst the civil population, an increase of 201 upon last year; 2 amongst the military billeted in the district. These are allocated to the following townships:—

	Earsdon.	Backworth.	Holywell.	Murton.	Total.
Measles	95	46	13	52	206
German measles	2	2	1	3	8
Diphtheria	5	1	9	1	16
Tuberculosis of lungs ...	5	5	2	3	15
,, (other forms)	3	3	—	—	6
Scarlet fever	15	14	8	6	43
Erysipelas	4	1	1	—	6
Enteric fever	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	6	1	1	4	12
					313
Pneumonia					12
					325

The following cases occurred amongst the troops billeted in the District :—

	Backworth Camp.
Diphtheria	2

Both sent to the Infectious Hospital at Scaffold Hill. Every infected house was visited. Some of the schools in the district were closed, and the headmasters were notified and requested to exclude all children from infected houses.

Measles have been prevalent during the year, chiefly in July, August, October, November, and December, but it was of a mild type, only 2 deaths having occurred from this disease during the year.

Influenza was also prevalent and was of rather a severe type, 19 deaths having occurred. Every precaution was taken by the Sanitary Authority, and leaflets with instructions were issued to every house in the district.

Of the 325 cases of infectious diseases notified, 26 were sent to the Scaffold Hill Hospital.

OVERCROWDING

is very prevalent in the district, and several of the old houses are dilapidated and in a bad condition, requiring remodelling. Others are unfit for habitation.

To meet the pressing needs of the district about 500 new houses are required. It is proposed to commence at an early date to erect 226 houses on a site at Backworth Village, acquired from His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.

These houses are to be built 10 to the acre, 14 having two and the remainder three bedrooms, all being provided with bathrooms and gardens.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging has been done by the Council's own workmen and has been more satisfactory than in previous years when the work was let by contract.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. It has been of good quality and the supply has been excellent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage has been satisfactory. The irrigation ground and sewage disposal grounds at Holywell have been in good order.

LIGHTING.

It has been decided to change the system of lighting from electricity to gas. Part gas lamps were erected and worked satisfactorily for the required period. The others are gradually being erected as materials come to hand.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 6 factories and 21 workshops in the district. These have been inspected and found in good order, with the exception of the Brick Works at Backworth, which has unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

ALLOTMENTS.

120 additional allotments have been provided at New York and Moor Edge and Shiremoor for the workmen during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TAYLOR DIXON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

EARSDON,

APRIL, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1919.

NEW BUILDINGS.

No new buildings have been erected during the year, a great difficulty has been experienced in having urgent repairs and improvements carried out on account of the shortage of labour and materials.

HOUSING SCHEME.

As reported last year the Council have decided for the West Holywell Housing Scheme to lie over until the Backworth Village Scheme is developed so that the tenants could be removed.

BACKWORTH VILLAGE SCHEME.

The land has been purchased by compulsory power from His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, owing to not being able to come to terms about the price per acre.

It is proposed to erect 226 houses, 24 having living rooms, scullery, bathroom and 3 bedrooms; 188 with parlour, living room, scullery, and 3 bedrooms, and 14 bungalows with living room, scullery, bathroom, and 2 bedrooms. All will have large garden, and it is proposed to erect 10 houses to the acre.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Plans and sections have been submitted to the Council for the relaying of the 12-ins. sewer from East to West Holywell at the estimated cost of £3,000. The work has been postponed.

New drains have been laid to each house at North Row, East Holywell, in place of the channel.

200 yards of new drains have been laid at the Earsdon Taylor Memorial Schools, and 6 inspection chambers built.

60 yards of new drains have been laid at Earsdon Village.

ROADS AND STREETS.

Improvements are being carried out by the East Holywell Coal Company at North Row, East Holywell.

We have had a great difficulty with respect to obtaining materials for repair of the main roads in the district.

No new street works have been undertaken during the year by the Council.

WATER SUPPLY.

Township.	Estimated Population.	Gallons.	Average Consumption per head per day.
Earsdon	4,025	21,213,000	14·4
Holywell	3,437	9,139,000	7·3
Backworth	2,255	7,758,000	9·4
Murton ...	1,283	4,422,000	9·4

The average consumption of water for the whole district has been 10·1 gallons per head per day, as against 9·7 last year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 21 workshops and 6 factories entered on the Registers, these are inspected periodically, and have been found in good order, except the sanitary conveniences at the Brick Works, Backworth. The owners have promised to have this remedied.

SCAVENGING.

This work has been efficiently done, and in my opinion as cheaply as if it had been done by contract.

We have nine horses and carts employed. With one of the horses the ambulance work of the Joint Hospital Board is attended to.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

282 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, an increase of 158 against last year, viz., 43 scarlet fever, 20 diphtheria, 1 enteric fever, 6 erysipelas, and 214 measles. 30 cases were removed to hospital. Each case notified is visited, also removal to hospital recommended. After removal to hospital, also when patient is convalescent, the house is fumigated.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 9 slaughter houses in the district, these are inspected from time to time. As most of the butcher meat has been imported dead meat, these houses have not been very much used, they are kept in good condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

26 cowsheds and 2 purveyors of milk are registered, these are inspected four times a year, several notices have been served to have the cowsheds lime-washed.

ALLOTMENTS.

Further 4 acres of land at West View and 3½ acres at Wellfield, Earsdon, have been taken for allotments. This about meets the demand for allotments.

LIGHTING.

Part of the district has been lighted by gas, there has been a very great difficulty in obtaining materials, or the whole district would have been lighted.

The Seaton Terrace part of the district has been relighted by electric light.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BYE-LAWS.

90 notices were served during the year and all were complied with.

UNSOUND FOOD.

About 70 lbs. of cheese were condemned and destroyed as unfit for food.

There is still a great difficulty in having improvements carried out, owing to high cost of materials.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. MacMILLEN,

Inspector of Nuisances.